

Hangartner, however, fails to teach an apparatus that determines the density of the bone in the particular region as defined in claim 4 of the present invention. Unlike the present invention, Hangartner teaches computed tomography in which a specific plane of the cortical part of the bone is evaluated. Although Hangartner determines the density of the cortex of the bone, this information is only used to determine the width across the cortex of the bone. Rather than focusing away from the cortical region of the bone and toward the trabecular bone, as in claim 4 of the present invention, the apparatus in Hangartner simply determines the width of the cortex of the bone. Hangartner's focus on the cortical region of the bone specifically teaches away from the invention as recited in claim 4, which purposefully avoids the cortical region of the bone.

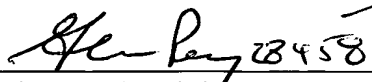
Furthermore, combining the teachings of Stien with Hangartner would fail to produce the present invention as defined by claim 4. Stein teaches measuring bone mineral density whereas Hangartner clearly focuses on measuring cortical thickness. Because the apparatus taught in each reference has focuses on different purposes and measurements, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not combine Stien and Hangartner.

Applicants have addressed all of the Examiner's objections and rejections and respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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